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Fiddleheads
Culinary creations for Sick Kids
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Port on patios
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Proud Pirates
No reason for team to bow their heads
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Dance night
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INPORTNEWS

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POLITICS: Tributes pour in for a political powerhouse

A 'tireless advocate'

DAN DAKIN
and SARAH FERGUSON
InPort News Staff and
QMI Agency Niagara

WELLAND — Peter Kormos is being remembered as a "staunch defender of democracy and fairness" who was a tireless advocate for his constituents.

The Niagara Region councillor and former longtime Welland NDP MPP was found dead Saturday at the age of 60.

see TRIBUTES | page 2



JORDAN AUBERTIN Special to InPort News
Flowers and goodbye notes left on Peter Kormos' front steps at 121 Bald St. in Welland.



MPP Peter Kormos poses for a picture in the halls of Queen's Park in this March 2009 file photo. He died on the weekend at his home.

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■ TRIBUTES

Kormos remembered as a 'staunch defender'

FROM PAGE 1

Police, firefighters and paramedics were called to Kormos's Bald St. home in Kormos at 10:45 a.m.

As word of the polarizing figure's death spread, tributes poured in from across the province.

"Everything he did, he did it for others and not for himself," Ontario NDP Leader Andrea Horwath said in an interview. "He upheld the integrity of the democratic system and he had a thirst for knowledge and information that he would use to benefit others."

Welland regional Council. George Marshall said, "This is not a great day for Welland."

He learned of Kormos's passing when he received a call Saturday morning. He was shaken with the news.

"I can't believe it. It (his death) came out of the blue," Kormos was a longtime politician who was never afraid to ruffle feathers at Queen's Park. After serving as a city councillor in Welland, he was elected as an NDP member of provincial parliament for the Welland riding in 1988 after winning a by-election when Mel Swart stepped down.

Kormos was a stalwart at Queen's Park, holding the Welland and Niagara Centre riding until he retired in 2011. But he wasn't completely done with politics.

In March 2012, Kormos was elected to regional council after winning a by-election by a landslide with 738 of Welland's vote. The by-election was held to replace Cindy Forster, who left her position on regional council to take up Kormos's position as the NDP candidate for the provincial Welland riding.

At the time, Kormos said he ran for regional council because he wanted to apply what he learned at Queen's Park to his hometown needs.

Regional Chair Gary Burroughs said he spoke with Kormos Thursday and said he was "bright as usual."

"He was looking forward to running again and we had a great conversation about it," he said.

Burroughs called Kormos a "tireless advocate for the residents of Welland" and said he represented them "with a tenacity and flare that is rare in Canadian politics."

"He was a staunch defender

of democracy and fairness, and these principles were at the heart of every cause he championed," Burroughs said. "I think he really enjoyed regional council because he was so close to the people," he added.

Burroughs described Kormos as "the character of council" who wasn't afraid to say anything.

Wainfleet Mayor April Jeffs will never forget the night Kormos stood up for the township at regional council.

Jeffs said there was a debate over the community paramedic program, now in place in Wainfleet, and a couple of councillors spoke out against it.

"Did he ever go to bat for Wainfleet. He was just so upset that someone was challenging something of such importance to the safety of the community. It made me emotional."

Kormos sat behind Jeffs in regional council chambers and took her under his wing.

"Peter always had great advice for me," she said. "I looked forward to seeing him at council. He'd always wink at me and call me kiddo."



QMI AGENCY File Photo
Peter Kormos with Cindy Forster.

In February, Kormos launched a weekly radio talk show with St. Catharines regional Councilman Andy Petrowski to discuss regional politics.

"Peter and I were chatting (Friday) about what we were going to tackle on our radio show Sunday," Petrowski said. "Except for his closest friends, he kept his health challenges very private. It was evident he was struggling with different things."

Petrowski said he respected

Kormos greatly.

"Even though Peter and I were on opposite ends of the spectrum politically, he was extremely professional and respectful," he said. "It's a sad day for Niagara. No one will be able to replace Peter's mark on the political landscape locally and provincially."

St. Catharines Liberal MPP Jim Bradley had a more than 25-year friendship with Kormos, and together the two addressed Niagara issues in Toronto.

"He didn't forget his own community even when he became a player on the provincial scene," Bradley said.

He said Kormos was read provincial bills "from cover-to-cover" when most politicians in parliament "relied on staff synopses."

Welland Mayor Barry Sharpe said Kormos's passing "will be felt right across the community."

"It's absolutely not a question there will be an outpouring of grief and sadness," he said.

Sharpe said he held a long acquaintanceship with Kormos through politics, most recently as a fellow member of

regional council.

"It's a huge sense of loss that will be felt across south Niagara. Peter was well-known and respected as a champion of the people."

Forster said he was a "mentor" and the person who encouraged her to get into politics in the 1980s. Kormos recommended she try for a seat on Welland city council.

"He told me they needed more people like me because there needed to be more women on council. There was only one woman on council at that time," she said.

Welland MP Malcolm Allen said Kormos was passionate about the people who he felt had been dealt a bad hand in life.

"Peter was one of those individuals who always made sure people whose voices weren't heard had a chance to be heard," Allen said.

"His good friends will sorely miss his friendship," the MP said about Kormos.

— with files from Jeff Bolichowski

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Kormos described by colleague as warm-hearted, extremely private

DAN DAKIN
QMI Agency Niagara

WELLAND — His fellow politicians were his friends. The people of Welland were his family.

Outside the public realm of politics, Peter Kormos was an intensely private man whose final years were lived humbly.

Gone were the fast sports cars once coveted. He drove around in a trusty green Chevy

pickup truck, which was still parked in front of his two-story, brick home Sunday afternoon.

Also parked in front of the Bald St. house was a Niagara Regional Police cruiser, along with another in the rear driveway. They were there protecting the scene until an investigation into what caused the 60-year-old's death was completed.

The area was being protected in case an autopsy revealed

Kormos died of something other than natural causes.

"There's no reason to think this is suspicious, but we'll keep protecting it until everything is cleared off," Waselowski said.

The NRP, with Welland Fire and Emergency Services and Niagara EMS, responded to Kormos's home at 10:45 a.m. Saturday after the politician was found dead.

Outside the house, the front steps became a makeshift

memorial with flowers, a poem and even a pair of cowboy boots similar to the ones Kormos was so well known for wearing.

It's believed Kormos was never married and never had children.

"I always knew him as fiercely private," said George Marshall, a fellow regional councillor who knew Kormos since the two were Welland city councillors in the 1980s. "Even

though you became close to him, there was no reference to family. He was very warm-hearted, but extremely private."

Rather than a comment from his surviving family, a one-sentence statement was released by a close neighbour, who residents in the area said was Kormos's caretaker and close friend.

An announcement regarding a memorial service will be made at a later date," said

the statement from neighbour Sherri Waghtman, speaking on behalf of the estate.

Calling Kormos "an icon," Welland MPP Cindy Forster also said a public memorial was being planned.

"No matter what their political stripes, people respected Peter Kormos. He will be sadly missed by our community," she said.

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■ **NORCLIFF FARMS:** SickKids Foundation of Toronto to benefit from culinary competition

Fiddling with fiddleheads

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Fiddleheads, it seems, can be used in just about anything a chef desires.

During a media lunch in Port Colborne this week, fiddleheads could be found in pizza, tarts, soup, cannelloni, and even a smoothie served at the end of the meal.

The lunch was held at the headquarters of the largest fiddlehead farm in North America — NorCliff Farms — to announce the sixth annual So You Think You Can Cook Fiddlehead Culinary Competition.

Nina DiLorenzo Secord, owner of NorCliff with her husband Nick Secord, said the competition will mark the second year it is being held in support of SickKids Foundation of Toronto.

"SickKids is something that touches everyone, not just Toronto. Children from this area go to SickKids.

"We love children," she said, adding between herself and Nick they have five children and three grandchildren.

This year's competition is being held at Gossip Restaurant on Friday, May 3, in Toronto and will feature three chefs, yet to be chosen, competing for top honours.

Second said chefs have until April 7 to submit a recipe and photos to NorCliff, and a panel will pick the top three to head on to the competition. The competition will be judged by Nick Secord, and chefs Massimo Capra, Rob Rainford, John Higgins, Therese DeGrace and Christopher Ennew.

Last year's winner was Dan Leblanc of Benchmark Restaurant, part of the Niagara



College Canadian Food and Wine Institute.

Leblanc's winning dish — a fiddlehead, scallop and shrimp mousse stuffed inside a cannelloni with sautéed fiddleheads, leeks and fennel on top — was served at the media lunch, as was a winning fiddlehead drink from the competition three years ago, a Fiddlehead Frenzy.

Janessa Bishop, senior communications specialist with SickKids Foundation, was looking forward to this year's competition and seeing what the three chefs could come up with.

"We're very much looking forward to working with them (NorCliff) again this year. I believe it raised about \$4,000, which is quite amazing for a first-year event," said Bishop.

She said the NorCliff fundraiser was one of more than 1,000 events held last year for SickKids that raised nearly \$15 million.

For more information on the upcoming fundraiser, or to buy tickets, which are \$100 a person, contact NorCliff Farms at 905-835-0808, ninag@norcliff.com or marketing@norcliff.com.

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DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo
Chef Jeremy Gilligan plates a cannelloni prepared with fiddleheads at NorCliff Farms.



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo
Nick Secord and Nina DiLorenzo Secord, owners of NorCliff Farms, talk about the sixth annual So You Think You Can Cook Fiddlehead Culinary Competition, a fundraiser for SickKids Foundation of Toronto.

INPORT NEWS

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Ourview

Iconic figure may not be replaced in our lifetime

Peter Kormos was a fighter.

Whether standing up against Conservative or Liberal governments — and even his own NDP party — Kormos was always looking out for his “brothers and sisters.” He didn’t even let Bell’s palsy, which paralyzed one side of his face, stop him. Once he was well enough, though not fully recovered, Kormos was back out on the streets of Welland riding and in the legislature at Queen’s Park.

Nothing would prevent the former NDP MPP from going to bat for the common person.

He represented the riding for a whopping 23 years, surely scaring off many possible challengers at the polls and leaving those who did run against him fighting uphill battles.

Kormos’s fight for others started early in life. He was the president of the student council at Eastdale Secondary School. He led a sit-in after the school refused to lower the Canadian flag after Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated and was expelled in 1968 for distributing anti-Vietnam War literature.

With the help of mentors, he attended Niagara College and later went to York University and then earned a law degree from Osgoode Hall. That law degree led him to practise criminal law and working with longtime NDP MPP Mel Swart. It was Swart who encouraged Kormos to run for his seat when Swart retired in 1986. At the time, Kormos was on Welland city council.

Once elected to the provincial legislature, Kormos continued to fight for anyone he felt was being treated unfairly. He went up against his own party, opposing then-premier Bob Rae’s administration for scrapping a proposal to establish auto insurance. As a cabinet minister, Kormos posed for the Toronto Sun as the newspaper’s Sunshine Boy and received backlash from his party. Instead of giving up his seat as minister, he forced the party to turn him.

Most recently, as regional councillor for Welland, Kormos stood up for neighbouring municipality Wainfleet as fellow councillors spoke up for a much-needed paramedic program in the township.

His untimely death leaves a big gap in local and provincial politics. It is a gap probably not to be filled in our lifetime by such another iconic figure.

— Dave Johnson

■ I’VE BEEN THINKING

The Resurrection should be preached regularly

PASTOR GARY TOMLUICK
Wainfleet Congregational
Christian Church

Ministers should preach and believers should talk about the Resurrection of Christ not only on Easter Sunday but throughout the year. 1 Cor. 15:17 Tells us “And if Christ has not been raised your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.”

But sinners do have to remain in their sins because Christ has been raised. Jesus predicted His death on several occasions.

This is:

1. Prophecy Fulfilled Isaiah 53:7 “He was lead as a lamb to the slaughter and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he opened not His mouth.” This was fulfilled in Mt.26:63 “But Jesus remains silent.” Jesus not only predicted His death but He also predicted His own resurrection. He said in Mt.12:40 “For as Jonah was 3 days and 3 nights in the belly of the great fish so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.” — fulfilling Jonah 1:17.

2. Punishment Profound. Crucifixion was a barbaric and cruel and often slow form of torture. Some victims linger on the cross for day before dying of exhaustion, dehydration and suffocation. When the legs would no longer support the body weight the diaphragm was constricted which even made breathing impossible. Sometimes the Roman soldiers would break the victims legs with an iron mallet hastening death. But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead they did not break His legs. (In 19:33). A further proof of His death is found in verse 34 — “But when

one of the soldiers pierced its side with his spear and immediately blood and water came out.” If Jesus were not dead prior to this time He certainly was after.

3. Presumptuous Position. The Old Rugged Cross was an instrument of death, yet how many people were there cavalierly around their necks as jewelry to accessorize their outfit. The cross can be worn as a statement of faith around our necks but more importantly it should always be carried on the backs of the followers of Christ.

4. Proclamations from the Cross. The first saying from the cross was, No. 1. “Father forgive them for they know not what they do.” After numerous beatings, mockings, and scourgings the Lord’s face was bruised beyond recognition. His face, neck and chest bloody. His back turned into ribbons of flesh and nails driven into His hands and feet. Yet the Lord still said “Forgive them, they know not what they do.”

What level And sometimes we will not forgive those who have hurt us for far less and insignificant ways. Christians have hope which is demonstrated in the interchange between the Lord and the dying thief on the cross. When He said to him No. 2 “Today you will be with Me in paradise.” No matter what we experience in life, a quick death or a long lingering sickness that eventually leads to death on our bed of affliction, death is gain for the Christian. For to absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. No. 3. On the Lord’s third saying from the cross “My God, My God why have you forsaken me” we have the Lord’s utter cry of dereliction. Many people died on crosses before but no-one could be separated from God as Jesus was. By virtue of His taking our sins upon Himself out of darkness and God’s wrath forgiveness is available for all who trust in Him as their own

personal Lord and Saviour. No. 4. When the Lord said “Women behold your son, Behold your Mother” the Lord was honouring His mother and committing her into the tender care of John. No. 5. When the Lord said “I thirst” the riggers of pain, the heat, the suffering made Him thirsty. He wanted moisture on His lips, his tongue and his throat. Yet the once dead and now risen Savior is the Fountain of Life who alone can quench the thirsting or our souls. No. 6. Then the Lord cried out “It is finished”; not I am finished. This was a conqueror’s cry. The Lord was saying in effect “Father I have finished the work that you gave me to do.” No. 7. The Lord’s last saying from the cross was “Father into your hands I commit my Spirit.” That is the blessed hope of each believer, just as surely as the Lord knew He was going back to His Father upon our death that is God’s promise of our homecoming.

I don’t have the space to mention 1. Precautions Taken to Secure the Tomb. 2. The many of our Lord’s post resurrection appearances. I would just like to mention in closing that the greatest evidence for the Lord’s resurrection is 3. Personal Change. Most of the disciples and martyr’s throughout the centuries had gladly given their lives for the cause of Christ. They would not have died for a known lie. The Lord is still in the business of changing lives today. Do not procrastinate for now is the day of salvation — “that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead you will be saved.” Romans 10:9

That is why I believe that the Resurrection of Christ should be preached throughout the year as least that’s how I see it.

■ COLUMN

Kormos worked many places — but rarely at the office

More often than not, the voice heard on the other end of the phone delivered the same basic line.

He was at the gates of any given factory in whichever city or town in Ontario, standing with his “brothers and sisters” against some injustice, whether real or perceived.

That is the Peter Kormos I will remember.

Over the course of a 12-year journalism career in the Niagara Peninsula, I crossed paths with Peter a lot. But not once did I ever set foot in his constituency office. There was no point because he was rarely there. The man whose help was helping people, and the man whose words were heard in his space by the old Welland Canal but out in the community.

Rallies, events, picket lines, crowds



KALVIN REID

GUEST COLUMN

— that is where Peter’s work was done.

No matter your opinion of the NDP or Peter’s place on the political spectrum, there is no denying that the man approached his job with passion and sincerity, traits that no doubt were the foundation of his incredible popularity in the Welland area. The man was a man that people rarely had to work hard in an election campaign. That’s not to say he didn’t. There is no question he did. But he

didn’t have to. His people loved him.

He was a sight to behold in a local all-candidates debate. More than any other he felt possessed, Peter was a gifted orator. The man could talk. He would command the microphone, and would attract the shortcomings of the incumbent government and, by default, its candidate in the Welland riding.

Peter’s face would go beet red beneath his shock of white hair, preaching to the people as a people performer. He would read a script while his opponents, try as they might, scrambled through their party platforms and key messages and talking points in a desperate bid first to catch up to his arguments.

It almost seemed unfair.

see KORMOS | page 5

■ KORMOS

'Peter gave us what we wanted'



QMI AGENCY File Photo

Peter Kormos addressed striking college teachers who demonstrated in front of Ministry of Education offices on Bay Street on March 15, 2006.

FROM PAGE 4

But like everybody else, Peter was a multi-faceted individual, and rarely does anybody see all sides of a person.

I will not for a minute profess to know a lot about Peter Kormos. I knew very well the side he wanted the media to see — the man on the campaign trail or hammering away in Question Period.

It was a persona the media loved. Peter gave us what we wanted. He gave great quote. He provided theatre and conflict and drama.

But he also gave good insight and analysis.

Peter was more than just a politician. He was a student of politics, and knew the machinations and tactics of the game about as well as anyone I

have encountered.

But I'd get glimpses of another Peter. Once the cameras were off and the notebooks were put away, there emerged a thoughtful, much quieter man — but much like his more public image was a man wanting to help.

Shortly after Niagara-area MPP and current PC Leader Tim Hudak was named northern development and mines minister in the second Mike Harris government, I went to Queen's Park to do a profile of the latest Niagara politician welcomed to the premier's inner ruling circle and a day-in-the-life-of feature of a Niagara cabinet minister at work.

Of course, the first person I run into after entering the hallowed halls is Peter.

He delivered no jabs about me being there to feature one of his political adversaries. But he did offer, if I had a break in my day, to show me around the place.

And then he consented to an interview for my story, offering his perspective on the rookie cabinet minister and what he needs to learn to be successful at the job.

Then we parted ways, me to do my job, and Peter, no doubt, to a rally or event or picket line or crowd to do his.

That is the Peter Kormos I will remember.

Kalvin Reid is a former reporter and editor at The Standard in St. Catharines and is currently a communications consultant with Enterprise Canada.

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■ EDUCATION: Institute's secondary school report cards issued

Fraser rankings get failing grade from school boards

VICTORIA GRAY
InPort News Staff

WELLAND — Niagara Catholic District School Board and District School Board of Niagara are again giving the Fraser Institute's secondary school report cards a failing grade.

Neither board believes the report gives an adequate view of their schools and they refuse to rank schools against each other because every school community is different and succeeds in varying ways.

The Fraser Institute released its annual report cards recently. The results are based on standardized Grade 9 math tests and the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test.

DSBN superintendent of student success initiatives Helen McGregor said the report is misleading.

"Using one piece of info doesn't indicate the complexity of schools," she said.

Catholic education director John Crocco said learning is a lifelong individual journey, not a race.

"We have confidence in all of our schools, confidence in our administrators — who lead our schools and in our staff who deliver programs and in the services we offer and we have confidence in our students' learning," he said.

In Port Colborne Lakeshore Catholic High School was 378th on the list and

scored a 6.1. Port Colborne High School was 522nd with a 5.2 score.

Pelham's E.L. Crossley came in at 256 with a ranking of 6.8.

The institute says its report card gives parents a tool to use when choosing the best school for their child to attend. McGregor said DSNB instead recommends talking to school principals.

"We encourage that face-to-face connection with a school and educators in that school," she said. "The (report) doesn't indicate the complexity of schools ... or the quality of teachers and other intangible benefits schools offer socially and emotionally."

Crocco said the report cards don't evaluate such things as science, social justice, clubs, athletics, the arts or international experiences provided at schools.

Both boards receive lengthy reports from the Ministry of Education with information about standardized tests

that help them in a variety of ways and both boards continuously evaluate data coming in from schools.

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Crocco

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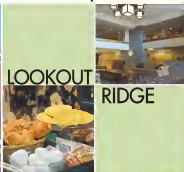
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■ JUNIOR B HOCKEY: Port loses close decision to Welland

Port Colborne Pirates captain Dayne Phillips, No. 16, and his teammates can only watch as their quest to return to the Golden Horseshoe Conference final fell short in a Game 7 loss to the Welland Junior Canadians.

JOE COSEN Tribune Photo

**Pirates have no reason
to bow their heads**

BERND FRANKÉ
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Thirteen games — six in league play, seven during the post-season — were played before a winner could be crowned in one of Junior B hockey's fiercest fights, the regional rivalry between the Port Colborne Pirates and the Welland Junior Canadians.

In the end, Welland won the battle for south Niagara bragging rights and moved on to face the defending Ontario champion St. Catharines Falcons in the Golden Horseshoe Conference final.

However, the fight between Don Cherry's Port Colborne Pirates and the Welland Youngs Insurance Junior Canadians, two hockey heavyweights who this season were mirror images of one another on the ice, couldn't have been any closer.

The last Battle of Hwy. 58 and the first fight for Hwy. 140 hockey supremacy was tied at six wins apiece heading into Monday night's Game 7 in Port

Colborne, where home ice wasn't much of an advantage. Each team was 2-1 in the other's building in the regular season — and in the playoffs.

A remarkable similarity between the regular season and the playoffs didn't end with the won-loss record. Port Colborne outscored the Junior Canadians 22-18 in head-to-head play during the season and by the same margin in the first six games of the semi-final round.

It was also dead even when it came to the teams facing elimination for the first time in the playoffs. The Pirates, down 3-2 with their backs against the wall, rebounded with a 6-0 win in Game 6, setting the stage for Welland's first must-win game.

Like the Pirates the night before, the Junior Canadians stepped up when it was their turn to answer the call. Welland went on to clinch the second-round series with a 3-1 win despite being outshot 43-18 on the road.

see **HOCKEY** | 9

■ HOCKEY

Port deserved a better fate

FROM PAGE 8

Third-seeded Welland's win is viewed by some as a bit of an upset given that the Pirates entered the playoffs as the No. 2 seed and boasted a high-octane offence that finished the season second only to the Falcons in goals scored. Port Colborne, not Welland, was expected to challenge St. Catharines for the right to represent the Golden Horseshoe in the Sutherland Cup playoffs on the strength of its superior scoring power.

But the Junior Canadians had some impressive weapons of their own. While the B's finished the season with 51 fewer goals than the Pirates, for an average of exactly one per game, their 2.63 goals-against average was nearly half a goal better than Port Colborne's mark of 3.10. That gave Welland enough of an edge to win this closest of series against a formidable foe that deserved a better fate, like unending overtime in Game 7.

Port Colborne fans didn't bow their heads after the disappointing defeat nor did they speak ill of their favourites. The echo of the final buzzer was still faint in

the crisp night air when a small crowd huddled outside the Pirates' dressing room suggested the Falcons were breathing a sigh of relief because they wouldn't have to facing Port Colborne in the final.

Normally, such bravado would grate the ear like a whine of sour grapes, sore losers lamenting what might have been. But it didn't sound that way at all to this dispassionate observer. The tone was positive, not boastful, and the words said more about their pride in the Pirates than disdain for the other guys.

I'm sure Welland fans would have reacted the same way had the final score in Game 7 been flipped and it was the Pirates, not the B's, going on to the final.

Such a recreation and appreciation for good hockey would only be fitting given what how competitive the Junior Canadians and Pirates were this season. There were no losers in this series, only a team that was slightly ahead at the deadline.

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■ AUTO RACING: Port Colborne track wants four-hour shows

Speeding up racing

BERND FRANKE
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — New Humberstone Speedway wants to go faster this season, at least on the clock.

In the hopes of making the move back to Sundays more profitable at the turnstiles, the Port Colborne auto racing track is fine-tuning its program in order to deliver a "full night of racing" in under four hours.

"On some nights we were pushing five hours. This year, it's going to be four, from the second



People want to be here for the racing, but they also have to get to work the next morning."

Bob Davidson

the cars hit the track to the final flag," Bob Davidson, the track's

general manager, said.

Starting the show an hour earlier at 6 p.m. is another thing Humberstone will be doing this year to get fans home well before midnight on a school night.

"People want to be here for the racing, but they also have to get to work the next morning."

Afternoon racing would satisfy all those concerns, but the dirt track's clay surface just wouldn't be conducive to getting a full workout during the heat of the day.

see RACING | 10

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■ RACING



BERND FRANKÉ Staff Photo

New Humberstone Speedway general manager Bob Davidson stands beside a late-model race car, one of the classes that will be competing at the Port Colborne track this year. Race cars are on display at Seaway Mall until Monday.

Late-model car class growing in popularity

FROM PAGE 8

"That would be fine if we had an asphalt surface — that's why NASCAR can run during the daytime — but a dirt track would get too dry during the day," Davidson said.

Running machine programs at a dirt track also wouldn't be "very fan friendly" to the people sitting in the stands.

"All that traffic would stir up a lot of dust. If we could keep the moisture in the track that wouldn't be a problem, but we can't."

Sundays had long been race nights in Port Colborne, first under the original Humberstone banner, then 10 years as Gasport before the track changed hands and was renamed New Humberstone Speedway.

However, the schedule was amended two years ago with Friday becoming the preferred date.

Davidson said the switch to Friday was made to increase attendance as well as the car count, but the change had little, if any, impact.

It did, however, put the Port Colborne pit stop on the regional racing circuit in "direct competition" with race nights at Ransomville in

western New York and Ohsweken near Brantford.

"We were asking people to make a choice," Davidson said, adding that made scheduling difficult for drivers who want to get the maximum return on their investment in the sport.

The track's general manager pointed out with late-model cars, a race class that is increasing in popularity, costing as much \$30,000 brand new, all that lap money can add up over the summer season.

"If you can make \$1,500 to \$2,000 on a weekend, you're getting your money back."

Humberstone is the only track locally offering the late-model class, but Davidson expects that to change in the future.

"More and more drivers are getting into them."

Two years ago we only had two to 12 in the class, and it was already by to 12 last year," added Davidson who expects the class to field 15 entries on a consistent basis this summer season.

"This class will only get bigger the more places who run these cars."

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■ COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN: Enjoy the outdoors

Port Colborne big on downtown patios

VICTORIA GRAY
Tribune Staff

PORT COLBORNE — What's better than sipping a cold beer on a patio in the summer?

Having that patio overlook the Welland Canal.



We want to offer our customers a nice dining experience over looking the canal ... where people can sit, eat and watch ships go by. It's one of the only places in Canada you can do that."

Greg Poisson

The City of Port Colborne approved an encroachment renewal for The CanalSide Pub and Eatery's patio on West St. this past week, and also gave permission to extend the patio in front of 230 West St. — The CanalSide

Kitchen Store.

Greg and Rosemary Poisson lease the buildings at 230 and 232 West St. for the Canal Inn, restaurant, kitchen store and banquet hall, so the patio isn't going to bother other business owners.

City planning and development director Dan Aquilina said the municipality's community improvement plan for downtown supports patios.

The restaurant has had its patio since 2008.

"It will be identical to the one they have now, just bigger," Aquilina said.

He said the city approved a 5-by-22-foot addition. The existing patio is 5-by-21 feet with two tables for six people. Both patios are seasonal.

"We want to offer our customers a nice dining experience over looking the canal," Greg Poisson said. "We have an anomaly here by having this canal, where people can sit, eat and watch ships go by. It's one of the only places in Canada you can do that."

The original patio will open next month and the new patio will open June 1.

Poisson said he thinks the city is business-friendly and understands the canal offers businesses something to entice tourists.

"As a community we need to under-

stand what we have in front of us here. This canal draws people from all over the world to see it and we need to make our establishments as tourism-friendly as possible," he said.

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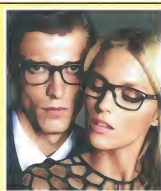
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■ THE HUB: Friday program provides employment



Theresa Gunn, left, and Jessica Calon, right, prepare a sandwich at The Hub. Gunn, and Scott Austin, in back in the blue shirt, are two Port Colborne residents with exceptional needs who are working in The Hub through a Christian Horizons program.

DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Employees best served by lunch

DAVE JOHNSON
Tribune Staff

PORT COLBORNE — The Hub is dishing up unique, fresh meals every Friday that are not only tasty, but offer meaningful employment to two residents with exceptional needs.

Scott Austin and Theresa Gunn may be the best served people at this eatery. Gunn and Austin, both developmentally challenged, prepare meals, serve customers, set menus, clean up and help in the kitchen.

They've been working next to city hall since early December, serving lunch from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Friday.

The meals — something different every week and sourced locally — are served up with assistance from Christian Horizons and St. James-St. Brendan Anglican Church, both who run the food service through the Niagara Pathway Program.

The program offers employment services for people with developmental challenges, and also has a commercial cleaning aspect through which on-the-job training in cleaning services is provided.

It was through the cleaning program

that Christian Horizons formed a partnership with the church and The Hub, which is located inside the Guild Hall. Christian Horizons program manager Matt Bradbury and co-ordinator Kevin Isaac were speaking with St. James-St. Brendan Rev. Robert Hurkmans about the cleaning service, something Christian Horizons also provides for other churches.

They came up with the idea of offering lunch from the cafe at the front of the Charlotte St. hall — and offering employment to Austin and Gunn. "It's a self-supporting program and volunteers help out," said Bradbury, adding Christian Horizons provides the training for volunteers.

Hurkmans said the program is a win-win-win for all involved. "For the individuals working it's on-the-job experience and they experience the joy of real, meaningful work. It's a win for the city, a place where people can come in and get great food with a friendly smile. I eat here when I can."

Hurkmans said the program is also a win for the church as it fits well with the mission of the church to be the "hands and feet of Christ in the community."

dave.johnson@sunmedia.ca

Dance the night away at Vale Centre

PORT COLBORNE — Port Colborne is stepping up its programming.

The lakeside city is hosting its first-ever session of dance lessons at Vale Health and Wellness Centre.

The 10-week program runs Wednesdays 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Golden Puck

Community Room beginning April 17.

Participants will learn various ballroom and Latin dance styles, including the waltz and the East Coast swing, among others.

Cost to participate is \$79 a person. No dance experience or partner is required.

To register, visit the Roselawn Theatre box office, 296 Fielden Ave., or call 905-834-7572. Deadline to register is April 12.

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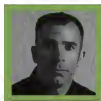
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■ KITES: Fred Taylor flies indoors

Staying aloft

ALLAN BENNER
InPort News Staff

WELLAND — People find it hard to believe when former Port Colborne resident Fred Taylor tells them he flies kites indoors.

They often ask if large fans are set up, but Taylor doesn't need any wind at all to lift the specially-designed kites into the still air.

He does, however, need a bit of skill, patience and Zen.

"You have to kind of Zen-out on it a little bit. It's a little bit like 'Tai Chi with a kite,'" he said, referring to the meditative Chinese martial art.

Taylor is the president of the Niagara Windriders Kitefliers Association, an organization of about 20 avid kite fliers from throughout the region and beyond.

Taylor, his wife Donna, and several members of the association were at the Welland Community Wellness Complex, Sunday, practicing the technique of sending their kites into the air under the 24-foot high ceiling in the Wellness Centre's auditorium.

Some of the kite fliers at the Wellness Complex travelled quite a ways to get there. Doug Isherwood made the trip from Toronto to try out the unusual-looking Plutz kites he recently purchased. It proved to be more difficult to keep in the air than some of the smaller more traditional designs.

Isherwood said being at the Wellness Centre was worth the hour-and-a-half drive. There aren't very many places where he could try out his kit in the big city.

see KITES | 17



ALLAN BENNER Staff Photo
Donna Taylor flies a stack of three zero wind kites within the Welland Community Wellness Complex, Sunday, along with members of the Niagara Windriders.

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■ COMMUNITY: Niagara College project nears completion



VICTORIA GRAY Staff Photo

The Many Hands Niagara College student committee Kayla Martins, left, Alysha Gayed; chairperson Cathy Tamchyna; Jen Hale and Kristen Empey at the groundbreaking ceremony at Port Cares Reach Out Centre to kick off an interior renovations project, which is now nearing its end.

Many Hands to applaud Port Cares success

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — It took Many Hands to renovate the Port Cares Reach Out Food Centre, and now many more are being invited to see the facility unveiled.



We want to see as many people as we can come out and show their support."

Catherine Tamchyna

A Reveal Day Celebration is being hosted to welcome the community into the Nickel St. building, which has been undergoing changes over the past four months courtesy of Niagara College.

Port Cares was chosen as the beneficiary of this year's Many Hands Project, undertaken by the school's event management and construction students. The Port Colborne agency is the 16th non-profit organization the project has assisted.

Through the project, the facility's children's area was relocated, storage created, privacy walls moved, floors insulated, a window installed, walls painted

and the back storage shed repaired and expanded.

The Many Hands committee is also trying to find room in its budget to purchase a new central air conditioner.

With work now nearing completion, the students are planning a celebration to re-introduce the community to the well-used and much-needed food centre.

The party will take place Saturday, April 13, kicking off at 11 a.m. and running until 3.

Hoping to see upward of 150 people, organizers have plenty in store for visitors including free food, carnival games, inflatables, and, of course, tours of the Port Cares facility.

Tours will begin following speeches and a ribbon cutting ceremony to take place at noon.

During the celebration, guests will have the opportunity to get their hands dirty and assist with the expansion of the agency's community garden.

Through the project the number of garden plots will be doubled to 16.

"The community is invited to come take a handful of soil," said Many Hands committee chair Catherine Tamchyna.

"We want to see as many people as we can come out and show their support."

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■ **COMMUNITY:** Mel and John Groom come on board as 2013 campaign chairs; Tim Wright new president

United Way achieves its \$600,000 goal

SARAH FERGUSON
Tribune Staff

PELHAM — The goal Angela Carter had in mind for United Way of South Niagara to reach was substantial — but not impossible.

Carter, who was last year's president of the United Way, had hoped to generate \$600,000 for the organization's 2012 fundraising campaign.

Well, John Crocco, last year's campaign chair, reported Wednesday that Carter's goal had been successfully achieved.

"When you reach low, you're bound to hit it, but when you reach high, it becomes inspirational," Crocco said about the campaign's success to about 100 people in attendance at the United Way's annual general meeting and celebration breakfast at Sparrow Lakes Golf Course.

With the news that such a high goal was achieved — albeit far below the million-dollar marks that were achieved when local

industry was in far better shape — new United Way of South Niagara president Tim Wright said he has a challenge before him to continue the organization's success just as Carter has.

A final fundraising goal hasn't been set yet, but Wright said he expects to see the United Way's 2013 campaign raise close to, if not more than, Carter's goal of \$600,000.

Wright said he is honoured to be the organization's new president.

"The United Way is such an important part of the community," he said.

Others changes to the United Way this year include the addition of Sue Baxter, Rob Steven and Ron Bodner to the board of directors for 2013 and 2014.

Mel Groom and Rick Groom will also take over from Crocco as co-chairs of the 2013 fundraising campaign.

Board director Sherri Glass said of the money raised in the 2012 campaign about \$416,540 will fund 16 agencies this year, such

as Port Cares in Port Colborne and the Hope Centre in Welland.

Of that money, 30% will go to programs that support health and wellness, 38% to food and shelter groups and 32% to programs that support children and their families.

After six years serving on the board of directors, two of those years as president, Carter is stepping down.

Looking back, she said every year a fundraising goal is set board members are left wondering if it will be achieved. But each year, the community continues to show its support.

"With 49 years, it takes a resilient group of people to be steadfast. The United Way certainly has had great successes, but a lot of challenges as well," she said.

The organization needed to be resilient as the "community landscape" of south Niagara has changed greatly in those 49 years, Carter added.

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Former United Way of South Niagara president Angela Carter relinquishes her role to new president Tim Wright during the organizations annual general meeting and breakfast celebration held at Sparrow Lakes Golf Course Wednesday.

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■ PORT COLBORNE-WAINFLEET CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

President's Awards await best in business, community

Tribune Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce will soon honour the community's best business achievements and citizens who contribute to their community with its annual President's Awards.

Three new award categories have been added for 2012 year honours — business of the year, employee of the year and women in business.

Awards will be presented at the Italian Canadian Cultural Centre on Bell St. in Port Colborne on Wednesday, April 10. Doors open at 5 p.m. for nominee photographs and the event starts at 6 p.m. Tickets include dinner and are \$45 apiece, two for \$80 or \$312 for a table of eight. Call the chamber at 905-834-9765 for tickets.

NOMINEES

Business of the year
Leah's Locks Salon and Spa, Lou's Tire (Wainfleet), J. Oskam Steel Fabricators Ltd., Railroad Gardens (Wainfleet), Ricci's Auto Truck and Industrial Repair, Stok Construction

Citizen of the year
Robert Shibley, Gary Hoyle, Bob Saracino, Betty Korc (Wainfleet)

New business of the year
Eatly Foods Inc., Something Else

Youth citizen of the year
Catherine Desy, Lakeshore Catholic High School; Brittany Roach, Lakeshore Catholic High School; Jordan Mulleboom, Port Colborne High School

Employee of the year
Dorna Martens Gamm, 91.7 Giant FM; Ashley Rodgers, Hands on Health Corp. **Women in Business Award**
Gail Todd, Something Else; Leah Lammpan, Leah's Lock Salon and Spa; Juli Longaphie and Betty Korc, JB Fashions

■ FIRE: Fireplace ashes believed cause of \$120,000 fire

Extinguisher of little use

DAVE JOHNSON
Tribune Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Using a fire extinguisher to battle a basement blaze proved futile for a Sugarloaf St. woman who was forced from her home by thick smoke early Friday.

The woman was very lucky to escape, said Port Colborne Fire and Emergency Services Chief Tom Cartwright.

"She told us the smoke was down to about two feet above the floor"

Heavy heat and smoke caused at least \$120,000 damage to the home, although that fire could climb higher, Cartwright said.

Firefighters were called to 507 Sugarloaf St. at 1:10 a.m. Once on scene, firefighters found heavy smoke coming from the back of the home.

Although it was reported no one was in the home, a search team was sent inside as other firefighters battled the fire.

One of two smoke detectors in the home was melted from heat, said Cartwright, and the other was sitting



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Heavy heat and smoke caused at least \$120,000 damage to this home at 507 Sugarloaf St. in Port Colborne early Friday morning.

on top of a dresser.

Cartwright said the woman, and a man, were sitting in a sunroom at the back of the home and when they came in, they smelled smoke. That's when the woman grabbed a fire extin-

guisher and tried to put out the fire.

"It was already too far gone," the chief said of her attempt to put out the blaze.

see **BLAZE** | page 21

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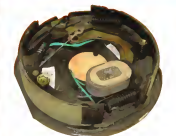


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ALL TIRES ARE 6
PLY MOUNTED ON
WHITE SPOKE RIM



■ BLAZE

Fire believed to have started from ashes

FROM PAGE 20

The two left the home and called 911.

Cartwright said the first thing people should do if they smell smoke or have detectors going off is call 911.

"That gets us on the road and in motion ... they should leave the house and close all of the doors behind them."

Cartwright said even if a person believes they can safely put a fire out with an extin-

guisher, they should always call 911 first.

The fire is believed to have started from fireplace ashes that were put into a plastic bag, then into a hamper stored in the laundry room of the home.

"My recommendation, if someone is using a fireplace, is to put ashes in a steel container and take it outside the house," the chief said.

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■ NEW BUSINESS: Standard Time comes to West St.

Watchmaker in Port

ALLAN BENNER
Tribune Staff

It's actually a multimillion-dollar industry.

Nevertheless, it's becoming increasingly harder to find a good watchmaker.

PORT COLBORNE — Watchmaking is by no means a dying art, says Rob Phillips.

see WATCHMAKER | 22



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■ WATCHMAKER

'It's a great niche to have open up in Port Colborne'

FROM PAGE 21

"North Americans don't seem to have the same reverence for the trade anymore," Phillips says during a grand opening celebration for his new shop, Standard Time, at 162 West St. "In Switzerland and all over Europe people are screaming for watchmakers."

There's currently only one school left in Canada where

students can become certified watchmakers, and the future is uncertain for École nationale d'horlogerie in Trois-Rivières, Que. Phillips says watchmakers across Canada are petitioning the Quebec government in trying to drum up support to keep his alma mater ticking away, so that it can teach the next generation of watchmakers.

"It's been around since the 1940s, maybe even earlier," he says. "There's stuff in that school that is so rare and so irreplaceable."

Originally from Winnipeg, Phillips recently moved to Port Colborne to start his watch shop after spending a few years living and working as a watchmaker in Toronto.

"I decided I like Port

Colborne better than Toronto," he says with a laugh.

He says his No. 1 complaint about the big city was the traffic. On Saturday Mayor Vance Badawey visited Phillip's shop to welcome him to Port Colborne.

"It's a great niche to have open up in Port Colborne," Badawey says.

"Because it's a niche and

we'd expect him to be pulling people all over to take advantage of this service, it will bring people down to West St. and, hopefully, they'll travel the entire commercial area along the waterfront."

More information about Phillips' business is available by calling 289-836-8000.

allan.bonner@sunmedia.ca

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wondering what is LeafSource and why it is so effective? LeafSource is a 100% natural product derived from a proprietary organic mineral composite with over ten years of university research. LeafSource helps regulate the inflammatory process and the body's ability to repair itself. The vast majority (70 - 80%) of the population over the age of 50 have joint problems — often called osteoarthritis. This is due to the natural (or unnatural) wear and tear on joint tissue that develops through the aging process. With joint inflammation, movement is limited and pain can be constant. LeafSource seems to have the ability to help people get their mobility and zest for life back. Millions of people seek treatment for their joint and inflammation problems by resorting to expensive, toxic prescription drugs (i.e., NSAIDs) with multiple side effects. These range from nausea and vomiting to serious intestinal disorders (bleeding, gas, pain) and even kidney and liver failure. Isn't that too large a price to pay for a little pain relief? LeafSource is a safe alternative to these destructive anti-inflammatory drugs that cause more problems than they solve. There are absolutely no side effects and it doesn't interfere with any other medications. Controlled experiments and observations have revealed that LeafSource is a potent anti-inflammatory that has been shown to bring a reduction to inflammation and pain within a few days. People notice great results in terms of more energy and less pain by taking

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